

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 3-9 are now present in the application. Claims 3 and 4 are independent. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection Under Obviousness-type Double Patenting

Claims 3-9 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3 and 5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,756,664. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has submitted a terminal disclaimer concurrently herewith. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection based on '664 patent should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

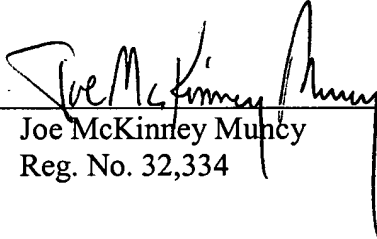
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.


In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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